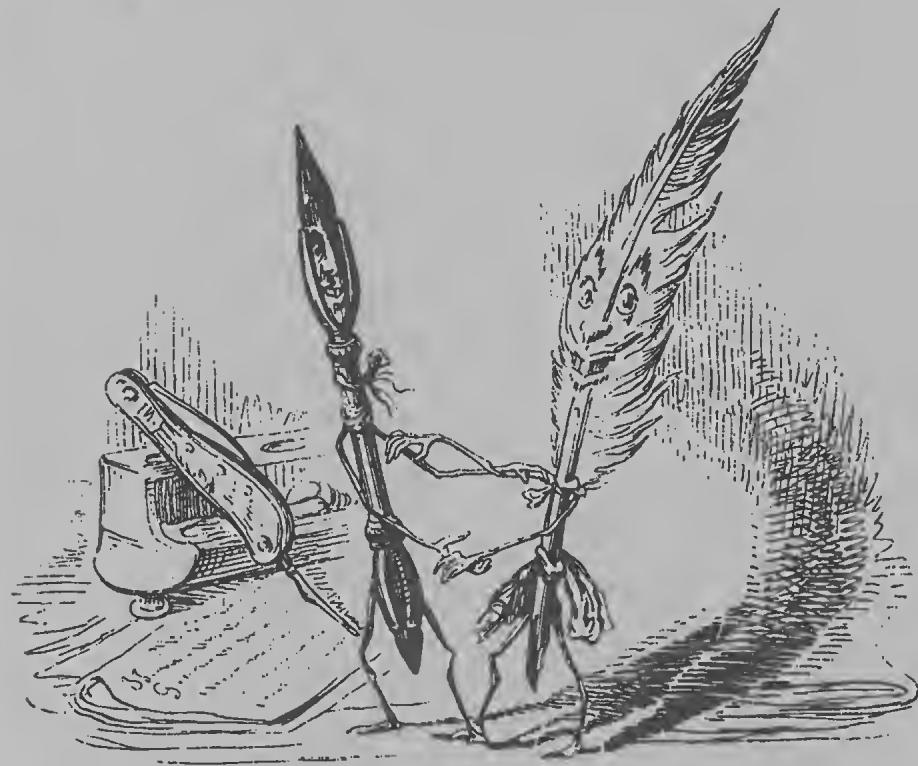


Spring 1994

LVII

# MEASURE



Literary Magazine

# **MEASURE**

is the literary magazine of the students and staff of  
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## **Measure Staff**

**Spring 1994**

|                                  |   |
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| <b>Poetry &amp; Prose Editor</b> | <b>Greg Potts</b>   |
| <b>Staff</b>                     | <b>Jennifer Anderson</b><br><b>Jason Grzegorek</b><br><b>Virginia Evans</b> |
| <b>Advisor</b>                   | <b>Robert Garrity</b>   |
| <b>Printer</b>                   | <b>Messenger Press</b><br><b>Carthagena, Ohio</b>                           |
| <b>Cover Design</b>              | <b>Stephen James, '91</b><br><b>Sharon Vairo, '92</b>                       |

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## The Princess and the Poor Boy

*Ryan Wright*

Dedicated to Amy Wright

She walked at night, Thru the city of love  
Wonderin' why she'd never found enough  
Could it have been she's never satisfied?  
Or maybe just that she's never really tried

He talked of love, As a prison cell  
But what was inside, Well you could never really tell  
He walked around with his eyes shut tight  
Wonderin' why things never turned out right

She looked in his eyes, But what could she see?  
'Cause he always hid behind his tapestry  
She turned him away, I guess he thought it best  
'Cause he never wanted to treat her like the rest

But deep inside, Lived the fire she'd lit  
And though he tried, There was no way to forget  
So he searched the city, For the princess absent  
With the hope to convince her his heart would repent

He said, "Hold me close. Please don't let me go.  
"Give me some more time. I'll let what's inside show."  
She said, "Hold me close. You're all I've waited for.  
"With you here, I'll never need anymore."

Say you won't ever set me free  
Say you'll always stay with me  
Say your love will never fail

'Cause I believe our love's more than...  
A fairy tale

He held her hand, As they walked down the road  
He held her tight when the winds would blow cold  
When he looked into her eyes, It was to see her heart  
To make sure the fire had never gone dark

And deep in the night, If you listen silent  
It feels as if there's something heaven sent  
'Cause the angels still sing, Sing a song of joy  
Of the magic in love between the princess and the poor  
boy

## Loneliness

### *Zephyr*

In my room dark walls surround me,  
but I'm still alone.

My possessions encompass me,  
but I'm still alone.

I sit on my bed and close my eyes,  
I try to imagine you holding me.

But then I open my eyes,  
and I'm still alone.

## One Night

*Julie Lawton*

I have lost something that is dear to me,  
Something I thought would always be.

The anguish, betrayal, and hurt I endured,  
Is something I wish had never occurred.

It seemed so sweet, so right,  
It is amazing it all ended that one night.

My emotions and energy are tied in a giant knot,  
There is one thing for sure, forget him I will not.

True love is what it seemed from the start,  
Now we are finished and so far apart.

One person is what we seemed to be,  
Now all that is left is me.

My broken heart will be hard to mend,  
I just hope I have the strength to love that way again.

## I Kill for Elvis

*Ryan Wright*

Well I listen to my records, Fourteen hours a day  
I listen to them backwards, And this is what they say  
Well a--Well a...

There's too many people, Got to thin them out  
If you play "Heartbreak Hotel," It's there without a  
doubt

I kill for Elvis, I kill for Elvis  
Well the king's alive, And he packs a .45  
I kill for Elvis, I kill for Elvis

Take me down to Graceland, Where I'll be embraced  
'Cause Elvis gave me fingerprints the cops can't seem to  
trace

A darlin'...

He told me on the radio, And he told me on t.v.  
You gotta rid me of that \_\_\_\_\_ Priscilla Presley

I kill for Elvis, I kill for Elvis  
One look will tell, He's mad as hell  
I kill for Elvis, I kill for Elvis

Yes, he told me on the radio, And told me on t.v.  
Get rid of that half-pint, Jerry Lee

I kill for Elvis

## Sick Inside

*Becky F.*

Your face smiles  
behind hollow words,  
so I know that your smile  
is a lie  
and that your words  
mean nothing  
even to you.  
And I look around me  
to see bright faces  
that hang on every  
syllable,  
wanting to believe you  
so much  
that they don't even doubt  
your integrity.  
I'm sorry for them,  
and I'm sick inside  
because the day will come  
when the truth is known,  
and by then  
it will be much too late.

## Evil

### *Zephyr*

It exists wholly, but migrates from the innards of the human soul.

It feeds hungrily on your fear and doubts,  
Ripping its jagged teeth through the juicy flesh of your ambition,

and yet  
it exists

within you.

### Constantly feeding

You feel it eating away at you,  
Rising to the surface,  
methodically,  
slowly.

Then it BURSTS forth, draining out of you,  
laughing, as it leaves you,  
feeling  
decadent,  
insecure,  
and ashamed.

You retreat within and heal your now  
ragged and infected flesh.

You realize it has left a seed, a spawn.  
And it festers,  
and waits, and eats, and laughs.

## To Heather

*Greg Potts*

If ever I saw beauty more fair,  
'twas but a sprite in starry air.  
There is no comparable touch of bliss,  
Than your soft lips when we kiss.  
If ever there be, a beauty fair as thee,  
'twill be, but a reincarnation of thee.

## **That's My Table...and I'm Jesus Christ**

*Ryan Wright*

I was sittin' in a bar just minding my own business.  
Checkin' out all the girls. You know the ones in those  
cling-chest tops.

Out of nowhere, this guy with a beard and flannel shirt  
comes walkin' over.

He's with these twelve other guys...all of them with  
sandals on.

Well, they just stood there, all of them just staring at me.  
Twenty-eight eyes breathing down my neck.

Twenty-eight eyes that just kept looking at me, and I'm  
looking back into them, and they're still looking at me  
looking at them.

Finally, I just couldn't take it anymore.

"What do you want?!?" I screamed.

And the first guy...the weird leader sort of guy, he bends  
down to like an inch of my face.

He just sat there for a minute...

Breathing on me.

It was weird. It was almost like he was looking into my  
soul.

That's when I got scared.

And then he asks me, "Don't you know who I am?"  
All I could think was, "Psychotic ego-maniac, maybe."  
And all of a sudden he just grabs my shirt, drags me to  
my feet,  
and screams...

"Hey!!!!!"

"Now listen up buddy, I'm not gonna tell you twice..."

"That's my table...and I'm Jesus Christ!"

"I think you better move on, I'm really trying to be nice..."

"But that's my table...and I'm Jesus Christ!"

## **Love and Peace**

*Julie Lawton*

Prejudice is an evil that we grow to learn.

As a child, love is what we yearned.

Why do our needs change as we grow?

Something as simple as love we shouldn't outgrow.

If we treated each other how we want to be treated,

Peace wouldn't be an unreality our minds just created.

## Pretend

*Becky F.*

What man is truly free  
who needs people around him  
to love him?  
What life is of its own  
knowing it was created?  
What person has felt loneliness  
when others surround  
and influence from all sides?  
And what night is dark  
when stars  
or street lamps  
glow somewhere?

Many times, we say one thing  
when we mean another,  
or we miss  
the meanings we are given;  
we play at life,  
making it a game,  
always knowing  
we can never win.  
So we pretend  
that we can sometimes smile,  
and sometimes  
laugh at children,  
and we pretend  
that is enough  
to keep us satisfied.

But lying alone  
in my bed at night,  
I wonder  
what will become of me  
tomorrow.

### Why?

### *Buff*

His boots greeted  
the earth with a smile  
as he plodded through vast  
radiant fields.  
Pondering some ultimate reality  
and losing faith  
in the truths of the ages,  
he rested  
not under a tree,  
but under the hot, naked sun.

## Something Out of Reach

*Julie Lawton*

Have you ever been infatuated with a person,  
Not just a face?  
Have you ever had a friend  
No one could replace?  
There is a friend in my life like this,  
The problem is what I really long for is his kiss.  
How can I risk losing such a friend?  
I can't, so I have to pretend  
That friends are all we are and ever will be.  
I can't open my heart to him,  
Even though I know he has the key.

## A Ballad to My Heart

### *Zephyr*

Many days you have spent crying  
Many days you have spent broken  
While you listened to your master sighing  
And no words were spoken.

Your love is overflowing  
You never keep any in  
You're constantly growing,  
Though at this game you never win.

The pain you feel is very deep  
But you keep on falling  
The cliff is too steep  
But love keeps on calling.

Some would call you a fool for falling before you start  
But I would tell them, "You are wrong, I'm just a fool of  
hearts. I'm just a fool of hearts,  
A simple fool of hearts."

## No More Promises

*Becky F.*

I open my eyes  
to you standing,  
still, in front of me  
with wounded eyes.  
And your mouth  
says that you love me still,  
after everything  
I have said,  
but I don't believe you  
because they are only words.  
I'll accept no more promises,  
listen to no more lies,  
I will turn and walk away,  
leaving you there, alone,  
with your false pain  
in your eyes.

## I Thought of You Today

*Seva*

I thought of you today

as I ran my red fingers through my hair  
I thought of your chocolate curls  
brushing against my face.

I thought of you today

with a razor in my hand  
I thought of your soft but strong hands  
gently holding mine.

I thought of you today

as tears silently ran into my mouth  
I thought of your eyes that change color  
and your cupidoll lips.

I thought of you today

as I contemplated my wrists  
I thought of your lean brown arms in the  
summertime.

I thought of you today

as my breath escaped me.

I thought of you today.

1958

*Ed Habrowski*

Step on a crack,  
Break your mother's back.  
Pick up sticks, one at a time.  
Mother, may I cross the line?

Marbles, shooters, cat's eyes,  
Gyroscopes spinning, watching the world go by.  
Yo-yos up and down,  
Around the world and around the town.

Bounce the ball high and gather a jack,  
Bounce it higher and gather them behind your back.  
Flipping baseball cards,  
Covers, flippers and skidders in our backyards.

Lincoln logs and baseball mitts,  
Spinning tops, Louisville sluggers, and Tinker Toy kits.  
American Flyer and Lionel trains  
Kicking the can, slingshot huggers, and erector set  
cranes.

Collecting bees, bugs and creeping critters,  
In our pockets, but gave Mom the jitters.  
Looking for China by digging a hole  
Finding nothing but yellow clay and black coal.

Step on a crack,  
Break your mother's back.  
Enjoy childhood by swinging on a gate,  
For tomorrow may be too late.  
('Cause you've grown to be an adult.)

## I Wait the Day

*Jason Grzegorek*

In a passionate embrace  
I hold your voluptuous body  
In my arms  
But it is only a dream....  
I wait the day  
It will be real

Your perfume permeates the room  
Even though you are not here....  
I feel your touch  
And gentle caress  
But it is only my mind....  
I wait the day  
My thoughts become reality

## Restless

*Becky F.*

The night is silent around me,  
silent and still,  
silent except for the occasional car  
gunning its engine  
somewhere off into the night;  
still and black all around me.

Black, that is,  
except for the streetlamp  
right outside my window  
and the bright blue numbers  
on my clock,  
I could see into any corner  
if I wanted to.

I can't sleep.

I keep looking at the bright blue clock,  
wondering how long I've been lying here  
trying to go to sleep,  
trying to think about anything  
but sleeping;  
but I'm still awake  
and tossing  
back and forth  
as the sheets tangle all around me.

The minutes tick by,  
only I don't hear them ticking,  
I just watch them change,  
bright blue on my electric clock,

and I wish the wind would stop blowing  
and making trees  
move the shadows on the wall  
so I could stop looking at them  
and just go to sleep!

### **True Love Is Lonely**

*Oscar Lorenzo*

god cried  
and his tears covered the earth  
man sighed  
wondering what it was worth  
rain fell  
and no one was filled with mirth  
but hell  
was robbed with this day's rebirth

## Dismal Pirates

*Ryan Wright*

A century of sorrow, The cold winds blew our way  
And the night's all that saved us from every sunless day  
The gods looked down in pity at the things that they had  
done  
And now I've come to realize my misery's just begun

When the timelessness of hours breed thoughts of a  
familiar land

I can see what's in the eyes of every broken man  
A heart that's holding secrets, And a soul just holding on  
But the things we held dearest are the things that are  
long gone

I ask myself why, It's this wasted life I lead  
But I've lied to myself so long, It's all I've left to believe  
For the truth holds answers I'd rather never know  
There's another world in which I'll pay a greater toll

And dismal are the dreams I've slipped in to the wake  
and solitude in men feed the fires of hate  
Please don't ask me questions, Of adventures of the sea  
'Cause the edge of the world's come crashin' down on  
me

Tonight we set sail forever  
Leave our hearts and homes behind  
Tragedy's our captain  
We betrayed our souls and minds

And tonight's just the beginning  
So pray for me, my friend  
'Cause tonight we set sail  
To try to find the end

### **Peppermints Are**

*Greg Potts*

Troubles that rage red- like the sun,  
at the start of day.  
And melt- sticky sweet  
in the mouth- of a wet night.

## My World

### *Zephyr*

Come into my world,  
my dark dark world.

Don't be fooled by the darkness,  
don't be afraid my love, come in, come in.

Lose yourself in blissful oblivion.

Let the darkness weigh down upon you like wet sand.

Don't resist it,  
let it overtake you, as the sun overtakes night.

Embrace it and it will return your embraces.

Fight it and you will be utterly conquered.

Just let it happen my love.

Give in to my world, and it will give of itself wholly to  
you.

Blissful Enchantment.

Sweet Oblivion.

Come into my world, fall into me.

The darkness waits.

## Precious World

*Julie Lawton*

“Our world is full of so many wonderful things,  
We should all be as happy as kings.”  
But instead we abuse what was given us at birth,  
We constantly continue to rape our Mother Earth.  
Is this what God anticipated we would do?  
Or have we sanely transformed His precious world into a  
zoo?  
We need to care and embrace this world with our arms  
Before we continue to do more harm.

## Conflict

### *Buff*

Death crowds my mind  
Realization of life's joy  
Morrison's squirming brain  
Insecurity  
Danger signs ahead  
Time to run  
My own revolution  
It's a brand new world  
Brand spanking new  
Like Tommy Johnson's big wheel  
Damn  
Tommy's big wheel broke  
Broke in half  
A big wheel divided  
Here we go again

## With Your Eyes

*Becky F.*

I want to see things  
with your eyes,  
to know life  
as you know it.  
I want to hear  
my words  
as they sound  
to your ears,  
to taste my skin  
with your tongue.  
I want to feel  
what you feel for me  
in the very depths  
of your soul,  
and I want to give you  
the gift of myself  
so you, too,  
can experience  
those things  
that I see,  
and I hear,  
and I know,  
and I feel  
because I want you  
to understand me.

## You Can't Hurt Me Anymore

*Ryan Wright*

If I'm far and wide, And dead inside  
You can't hurt me  
You can't hurt me anymore

If I'm deaf and blind, Far from divine  
You can't hurt me  
You can't hurt me anymore

If I'm dead inside, And crucified  
You can't hurt me  
You can't hurt me anymore

If I'm far from divine, Intoxicated blind  
You can't hurt me  
You can't hurt me anymore

Please don't hurt me anymore  
I'll be sorry, Just let me know what for  
Just please don't hurt me anymore

## Reality

### *Zephyr*

The gloomy day encompasses my thoughts.  
I am lost in the pit of my imagination.

I try to crawl out, but I am sucked back in by my  
fantasies.

My reality is not reality.  
My imagination is.  
Freeze my limbs, my heart and my emotions,  
but don't freeze my mind.  
Because in it I exist.  
And without it I have no reality.

## Thank You for Everything

*Julie Lawton*

As I grew up I thought I knew everything.  
Then it occurred to me, maybe I was wrong.  
And I thought maybe my parents could teach me  
something,  
Mom and Dad I'm sorry this realization took so long.

Now I know everything I've learned, you two have taught,  
Like the important things in life can not be bought.  
And what really matters is to be loving, honest, and kind,  
And to live by the Golden Rule and I'll be fine.

Now I know you two are living examples of this,  
Of all that's moral, honest and virtuous.  
You've given me the confidence to fly like a dove,  
I could never have accomplished anything without you,  
your support and love.

## Gone

### *Buff*

Swirling waters  
Like my mind  
Are confused  
But out of madness  
Images appear  
Soothing the pain  
Recalling pictures  
Enveloping my body  
Circling my love  
Consummating this strange relation  
Presence in absence  
Forever etched  
In swirling waters

## Tonight

*Becky F.*

I feel old tonight,  
older than the stars,  
and wiser than the moon  
with all her secrets;  
sadness fills me  
like an ocean  
with shores  
too far apart to travel,  
and I just want  
the loneliness to end.  
The moaning wind  
comforts me  
and trees invite me  
to stand beneath them  
and let the darkness  
fill me,  
to become a part  
of this night  
which is also alone.  
So I run to meet the night  
as a lover  
who has long been gone  
and I am embraced  
as a child  
who was lost—  
I will never be lost again.

## ...Into the Darkness

*Jason Grzegorek*

Here  
all is silent  
and black

(as a soul forsaken)

I move

(her face upon the waters)  
as if in a dream

Devouring the loneliness

(but never totally)  
and the fear

which suppresses me  
I try to stay

but cannot

## **Isn't She Lovely**

*Ryan Wright*

Isn't she lovely, Sittin' in her chair  
Isn't she lovely, With her long blonde hair  
And isn't she lovely, With that angel's smile  
I'd just like to hold her, In my arms for a while

Isn't she lovely, With those beautiful eyes  
Isn't she lovely, When we say goodnight  
And isn't she lovely, Walkin' down the street  
Just like the sun, Melting into the sea

Could she be, More than young and free?  
She's every man's fantasy  
I'm terminal, A fool for her  
I break down every day  
I just break down every day

Isn't she lovely, When she looks my way  
Isn't she lovely, In the sunshine and the rain  
And isn't she lovely, When she's by my side  
Shines brighter than the sun, And the stars in the sky

Isn't she lovely  
Well she is to me

## On Poetry

*Greg Potts*

Let the poet labor daily,  
like a seamstress.

The seamstress weaves,  
thread with ease.

So let the poet be,  
a weaver of words.

Let the poet weave only words,  
not ideas unless- they be in things.

Manipulate rhyme and meter,  
with nimble fingers and sharp pen,  
until the form falls into place.

Cut and snip with simile and metaphor.

Well woven words will give rise,  
to a beautifully crafted pattern.

Let the poet labor- like a seamstress,  
crafting the art of production.

Let the threads of words be final.

Meanings hidden and neatly woven.

## Children

*Becky F.*

My dreams are haunted  
by the children  
of the next generation  
who are born into a world  
of nuclear bombs,  
and air that clogs lungs,  
and rains that ruin  
forests full of trees.

What will we leave for these children,  
what stories will we tell?  
Will they only know of a green Earth  
through pictures and story books?  
Will they ever feel safe in their homes?  
Will they ever know life  
as we know it?  
Will we even allow them  
to have life,  
these children  
who live in my head?

*Cover by Sharon M. Vairo and Stephen R. James 1991*